GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2642
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
INDO-IRAQ TIES
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has proposed to strengthen cultural relations with India;

(b) if so, details thereof including the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to increase co-operation with Iraq in the field of agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a & b) Yes, sir. An executive programme for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Co-operation exists between India and Iraq valid till December 2001. In the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi recently, both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress and affirmed their keen interest in its successful implementation. Iraq desired extension of the CEP for 2 years i.e. upto December 2004 and the Indian side agreed to consider it and finalize it well in advance.

(c & d) Yes, sir. During the recently held Indo-Iraq Joint Commission meeting, both sides agreed to co-operate in the field of Agriculture and irrigation by diversifying the existing supplies of Agricultural and irrigation implements. In view of Iraqi requirements, additional equipments were identified in the field of soil management, dry land farming etc. for export to Iraq.